WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a media storage system including an enclosure having a user-accessible surface, an apparatus for retrieving data cartridge-related information from a memory unit mounted to a data cartridge in relationship to a surface of the housing of the cartridge, the apparatus comprising:

a registration area on the user-accessible surface of said enclosure, said registration area being configured to be engaged by said surface of the data cartridge housing in registration with said registration area; and

a reader mounted to said media storage system for receiving from said memory unit a signal containing said data cartridge-related information when said surface of the data cartridge housing is held in engagement with said registration area.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 in which:

the enclosure includes a bezel and the user-accessible surface comprises an outer surface of the bezel.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 in which:

the registration area comprises a recessed area in the user-accessible surface of said enclosure.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 in which:

the registration area is defined by indicia on the user-accessible surface of said enclosure.

5. The apparatus of claim 1 which comprises:

a communication interface between the memory unit and the reader when said surface of the data cartridge housing is held in engagement

with said registration area, said communication interface transferring said signal between said memory unit and said reader.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 in which:

the memory unit includes a transponder.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 in which:

the communication interface comprises an RF link between the transponder and the reader.

8. The apparatus of claim 5 in which:

the communication interface comprises electrical terminals on said memory unit and said reader.

9. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a display for displaying data cartridge-related information retrieved from said memory unit.

10. A method of transferring data cartridge-related information between an IC memory unit mounted to a data cartridge and an IC memory unit reader mounted to a media storage system, the IC memory unit being mounted in relationship to a surface of said cartridge and the IC memory unit reader being mounted in relationship to a user-accessible surface of said media storage system, the method comprising the steps of:

manually positioning the data cartridge so as to hold said surface of said data cartridge into registered engagement with a registration area on the user-accessible surface of said media storage system; and

transferring said information between the IC memory unit and the IC memory unit reader.

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of:

displaying selected information transferred from the IC memory unit to the IC memory unit reader.